Orient Point to Plum Island

A Long Island Sound Stewardship Area and an Important Bird Area.

Canvasback
Photo by Dianne Taggart

What is a Stewardship Area?

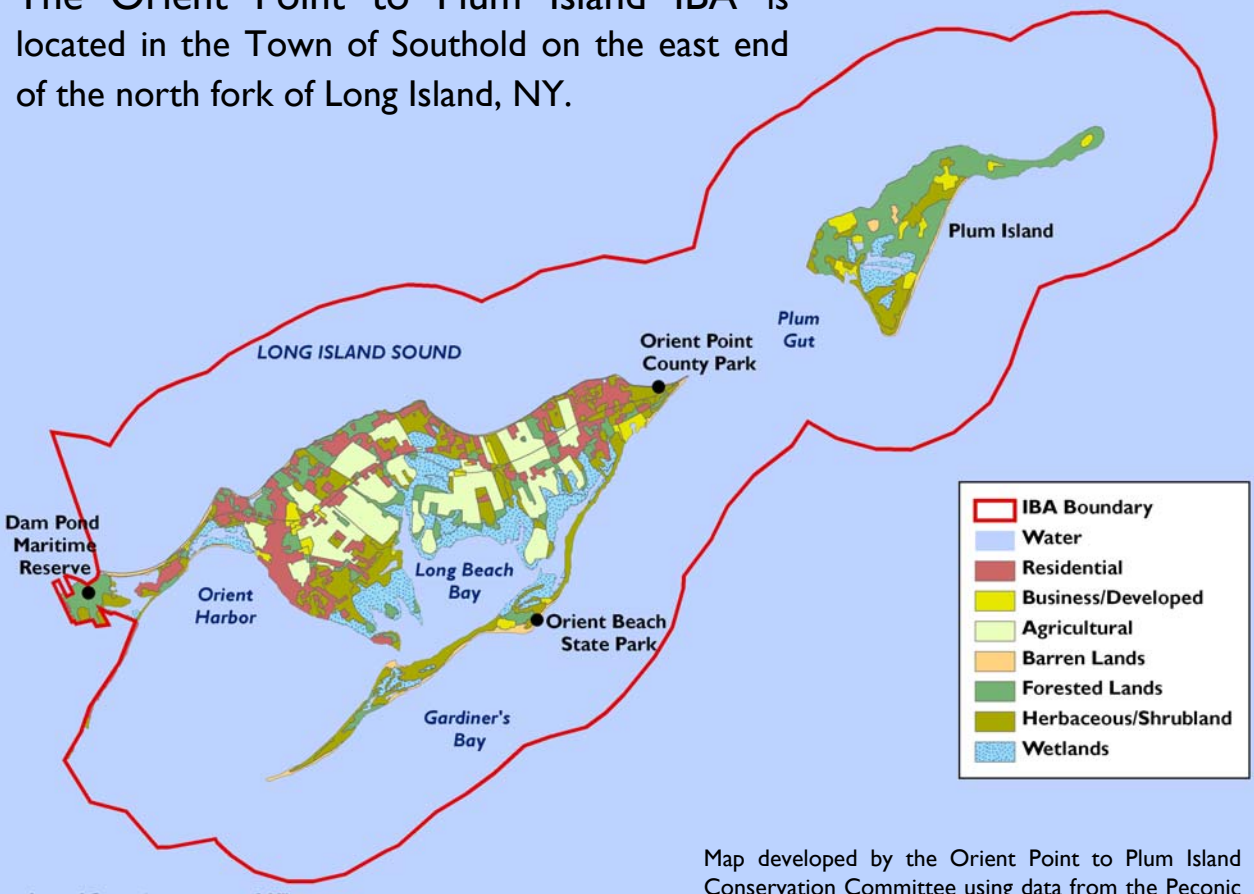
Identified by a partnership formed by the Long Island Sound Study, stewardship areas are places on the Sound with significant ecological or recreational value. To date, 33 sites have been identified in New York and Connecticut. For more information visit: http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net/stewardship.

What is an Important Bird Area?

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are sites that are identified as critical for the conservation of birds based on criteria that consider occurrence of large congregations of birds, at-risk species, or assemblages of priority bird species during the breeding season, winter, or migration. Audubon has recognized 136 IBAs in New York which includes the Orient Point to Plum Island IBA. For more information visit: http://ny.audubon.org/BirdSci_IBAs.html.

Piping Plover
Photo by Raema Obbie

The Orient Point to Plum Island IBA is located in the Town of Southold on the east end of the north fork of Long Island, NY.



Map developed by the Orient Point to Plum Island Conservation Committee using data from the Peconic Estuary Program and the Town of Southold.

Orient Point to Plum Island IBA Conservation

IBA Criteria

Orient Point to Plum Island was identified as an IBA because it met the following criteria:

- ***Species At Risk: Piping Plover, Common Tern, and Least Tern during the breeding season***
- ***Species Congregations: Common and Roseate Terns during the breeding season and migration***

Additionally, this site also meets the criterion for waterfowl congregation during the winter.

The Orient Point to Plum Island IBA is a popular birding spot in all seasons.

Least Terns
Photo by Raema Obbie

Visit the Orient Point to Plum Island IBA

The Orient Point to Plum Island IBA offers extensive opportunities for bird watching and wildlife viewing. Visit the IBA and report your bird observations to eBird at http://eBird.org.

Horned Lark
Photo by Jeff Nadler

Conservation Targets

The Orient Point to Plum Island conservation committee identified five conservation targets that are considered a priority for conservation within the IBA:

- ***Beach-nesting birds and their habitats***
- ***Wintering waterfowl***
- ***Early successional habitat for breeding shrub birds***
- ***Agricultural areas for wintering grassland birds***
- ***Saltmarsh habitat***

Current activities by the conservation committee include monitoring of endangered beach-nesting birds, surveys for wintering grassland birds, Plum Island breeding bird surveys, and inventory of saltmarsh habitat and associated priority species within the IBA.

Savannah Sparrow
Photo by John Brush Jr.

To learn more about the Orient Point to Plum Island IBA contact Audubon New York's Long Island Bird Conservation Program at 631-477-6456.